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SUBJECT: DRC ELECTIONS: MORE THAN 9,500 CANDIDATES FOR  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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11. (U) The Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) announced April 17 that 9,587 candidates have been provisionally approved to run for the 500-seat National Assembly. The CEI rejected 312 candidates for not conforming with the DRC's electoral law. On April 12, the CEI published a list of 8,340 approved candidates (reftel); the additions came after the CEI reviewed the candidacies of those who provided missing or supplemental paperwork to their dossiers after the April 2 filing deadline.

12. (SBU) Political parties and independent candidates have 48 hours to bring any challenges to the new provisional list before the Supreme Court. The Court will then have seven days to examine any challenges and render decisions. According to this schedule, the final list of legislative candidates should be announced by April 27. CEI President Abbe Apollinaire Malu Malu earlier said he would announce a revised electoral calendar after the release of the final list. (Note: The first round of presidential and legislative elections are currently scheduled for June 18. End note.)  
DOUGHERTY